

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:	SUBMITTED TO:
This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.	<u>CWGC Canadian Agency</u> 66 Slater Street Suite 1707 Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4 Att: <u>Dominique Boulais</u>

Report Date: 20 April 2015

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity		Burial Location Identified	
Most Probable Identity	X	Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "l" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Myers, Alfred Cromwell	i	Cemetery Name	link
46 th Battalion	i	Location	i
Corporal #781706	i	Plot, Row, Grave	i
Date of Death 19/2/1917	link	Date of Burial / Exhumation	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record		Graves Registration Report	
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	8
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	3, 4	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)	5	Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)	6	Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List		Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List	7	Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other		Reporting and Review	9

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 7 Row B Grave 3 in Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery lists an Unknown Canadian Corporal. The body was exhumed from the Mericourt Communal Cemetery German Extension.

A review of all the records clearly show that only Corporal Alfred Cromwell Myers #781706 of the 46th Battalion is missing in the area of Mericourt France in February 1917 and is named on the Vimy Memorial.

Details of Findings: (if required)

The evidence in this case presents a compelling argument that the remains exhumed from the Mericourt Communal Cemetery German Extension and concentrated in the Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery are those of Corporal Alfred Cromwell Myers.

The findings are based on the following:

1. Corporal Myers was reported to have died through German sources, during a raid by the 10 Infantry Brigade on February 19, 1917. Myers was with the 46th Infantry Battalion. The records report that he was wounded immediately after entering the enemy trenches and that he reported to his comrades that he was alright and that he would return to his own lines. When they returned, Myers was gone and thereafter the Germans reported his death. It appears that Corporal Myers was buried in conjunction with Private Hughie James McLean on or since February 13, 1917 (Attachment #1).
2. Corporal Myers remains were not recovered for identification and thus his name appears on the Vimy Memorial (Attachment #2).
3. The 46th Battalion of the 10th Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division, executed a raid on the German trenches east of Mericourt on February 19, 1917 (Attachment #3).
4. The War Diary of the 46th Battalion reports on the raid at approximately 5:30 pm on February 19, 1917. The diary goes on to report that 15 casualties as part of that raid and that Corporal Myers was missing, as was Lance Corporal Righton. The other 13 casualties were wounded and there were no reported deaths (Attachment #4). There is no report of the recovery of either Myers or Righton by the 46th Battalion and subsequently both were reported through German sources to have died
5. The only other Corporal on the Vimy Memorial for February 1917 was Corporal Robert Paton Sharpe, at Bully Grenay, some distance to the north west of Mericourt, past Lens and near Barin (Attachment #4). Although Corporal Sharpe's name also appeared on a list of deaths from German sources, it is not conceivable that his remains would have been moved to the Mericourt Communal Cemetery (Attachment #5).
6. The *Concentration of Graves – Burial Return* indicates that the bodies were exhumed from the Mericourt Communal Cemetery German Extension. This cemetery is in close proximity to where the trench raids were taken place and would explain why the Germans reported on the death of these Canadian soldiers (Attachment #6).
7. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission records report that 20 Corporals of the Canadian Expeditionary Force were killed in action from February 1 to February 28, 1917. Of these 14 Corporals were in the Canadian Infantry. All other Canadian Corporals have known grave sites.

The additional Corporal listed in the current database is for a Corporal from the Newfoundland Regiment, which does not apply in this case. Of the 14 Canadian Infantry Corporals, only two (2) are listed on the Vimy Memorial as having no known grave. As noted in Paragraph 5 above, Corporal Sharpe, unlike Corporal Myers, was not in the area of Mericourt at the time of his death and is excluded (Attachment #6). For confirmation purposes, there were 4 Lance Corporals (Collins, Down, Halliday and Righton) but only 1 Corporal, as clearly reported in the CWGC records.

8. The *Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials Burial Report)* shows that the Unknown Corporal was exhumed at 44A (36C) T5 c7.6 which is the precise location of the Mericourt Communal Cemetery German Extension. The body of Corporal Myers was found with Private Hughie McLean, 2 other unknown Canadian Soldiers (UCS) and 5 Unknown British Soldiers (UBS).
9. This report properly states that the Unknown Corporal has the most probable identity as Corporal Alfred Cromwell Myers (aka “*Believed to Be*”), as the evidence is clear that it is not another Corporal of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Unlike other cases, this is not a “*Confirmed Identity*” as we do not have an exact date for the burial of the remains in the Mericourt Communal Cemetery Extension. The date is believed to be February 1917 on the basis of the whereabouts of Canadian forces at that time and the burial date of Private McClean, prior to the 1st Battle of the Scarpe. During the subsequent period of May and June 1917 during the 2nd and 3rd Battles of the Scarpe, the forces were to the west and north of the Mericourt area in the Avion-Lens Sector (and the Battle of Hills 65 and 70). When the Canadians returned to the Arras area in the fall of 1918, they were in a much southern area between Arras and Cambrai.

Action Required: (if any)

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #9).

There is compelling evidence that the body of the unknown Corporal in Plot 7 Row B Grave 3 at Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery is that of Corporal Alfred Cromwell Myers.

It is the researcher’s contention that a confirmed identity would require access to the burial records for the Mericourt Communal Cemetery German Extension.

ATTACHMENT #1

Corporal Alfred Cromwell Myers:

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
781706	Acting Corporal	MYERS	Alfred Cromwell
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
46th Battalion	19-2-17	649-M-13949	Presbyterian
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
<p>"Previously reported Died (Through German Sources) now for official purposes presumed to have Died of Wounds at Givenchy-en-Gohelle."</p> <p>Took part in a raid and was wounded immediately after entering the enemy trenches. He sat down in the corner of a traverse to rest and told a comrade he would be alright in a few minutes and that he would return to his own lines. Before leaving the enemy trenches his comrades returned to the place where he was last seen but could not find him. Information was later received through German sources that he was dead.</p>			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
NOTE:-Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave.....	
		Plot.....	
		Row.....	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

Private Hughie James McLean:

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
624737	Private	MCLEAN	Hughie James.
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
50th Battalion.	On or since 13-2-17.	649-M-13332.	Roman Catholic.
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
<p>Previously reported missing, now for Official purposes presumed to have died.</p>			
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
Trenches North of Souchez.			
NOTE:-Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
12. CEMETERY	13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	14. GRAVE LOCATION	15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave.....	
		Plot.....	
		Row.....	
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	17. EXPOSURE NO.	18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
19. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

ATTACHMENT #2

FORM E13.
9758 - 10M - 4-6-17.

NUMBER..... 781706 RANK..... A/Cpl NAME..... MYERS A.C. E 13. S 19

UNIT..... 46th Bn Sask. Regt. NEXT-OF-KIN..... 35548

FILE NO. R.L.....

DATE OF DEATH	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
27-2-17 19-2-17 and 649-N-13949.	Previously reported Wounded and Missing now according to German List Died at GIVENCHY-EN-GOHELLE. <i>Presumed to have died of wounds.</i>	A 252 A 286
DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE.
		VIMY, MEMORIAL

ATTACHMENT #3

B3

76

10TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BRIGADE.
REPORT ON MINOR RAID CARRIED OUT BY THE
46TH CANADIAN INFANTRY BATTALION
February 19th, 1917.

OBJECTIVE.

German front line between S.9.a.15.70 and S.9.a.15.95,
the main-objective being the triangle enclosed within this area.

ORGANIZATION.

The raiding party, numbering 3 Officers and 93 Other Ranks, were divided into smaller parties, and further subdivided into sections as follows:

"A" Party - Lieut. REYMES in Command; 5 sections of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men each; 2 L.A.Rs. with a crew of 3 men each; 2 snipers.

"B" Party - Lieut. GILPIN in Command; 5 sections of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men each; 2 L.A.Rs. with a crew of 3 men each; 2 snipers.

"C" Party - Lieut. BINGHAM in Command; 2 riflemen; 2 sappers; 6 stretcher bearers; 3 signallers.

Each party was given a definite task to perform, which proved very effective.

The 18th Brigade R.F.A. and the 63rd H.A. co-operated. The Stokes L.T.Ms. co-operated with 0 guns, distributed as follows:

1 gun on sap rear of FOOTBALL Crater.

1 gun on PIMPLE, S.9.a.2.4.

3 guns on the triangle.

1 gun on a trench 100 yards North of the triangle.

Ammunition expended - 525 rounds.

The 12th M.G. Company co-operated with a barrage which proved very effective. One enemy M.G. only, opened fire from the vicinity of SOUCHEZ River, and was quickly silenced.

Very effective work was accomplished and great damage done to enemy trenches and wire.

Zero hour - 5:30 p.m., February 19th, 1917.

The artillery barrage was excellent, and the raiding party, advancing close under this barrage, entered the enemy's trenches immediately it lifted.

The line was found to be thinly held and but few live Germans were encountered. Two came to the door of one dug-out but refused to come farther; they were dealt with. At a second dug-out in rear of the triangle, where the fight took place during the last raid, a party of 12 came out and ran; 4 escaped. Several dead Germans were encountered in the trench, having been killed by the artillery and Stokes barrage.

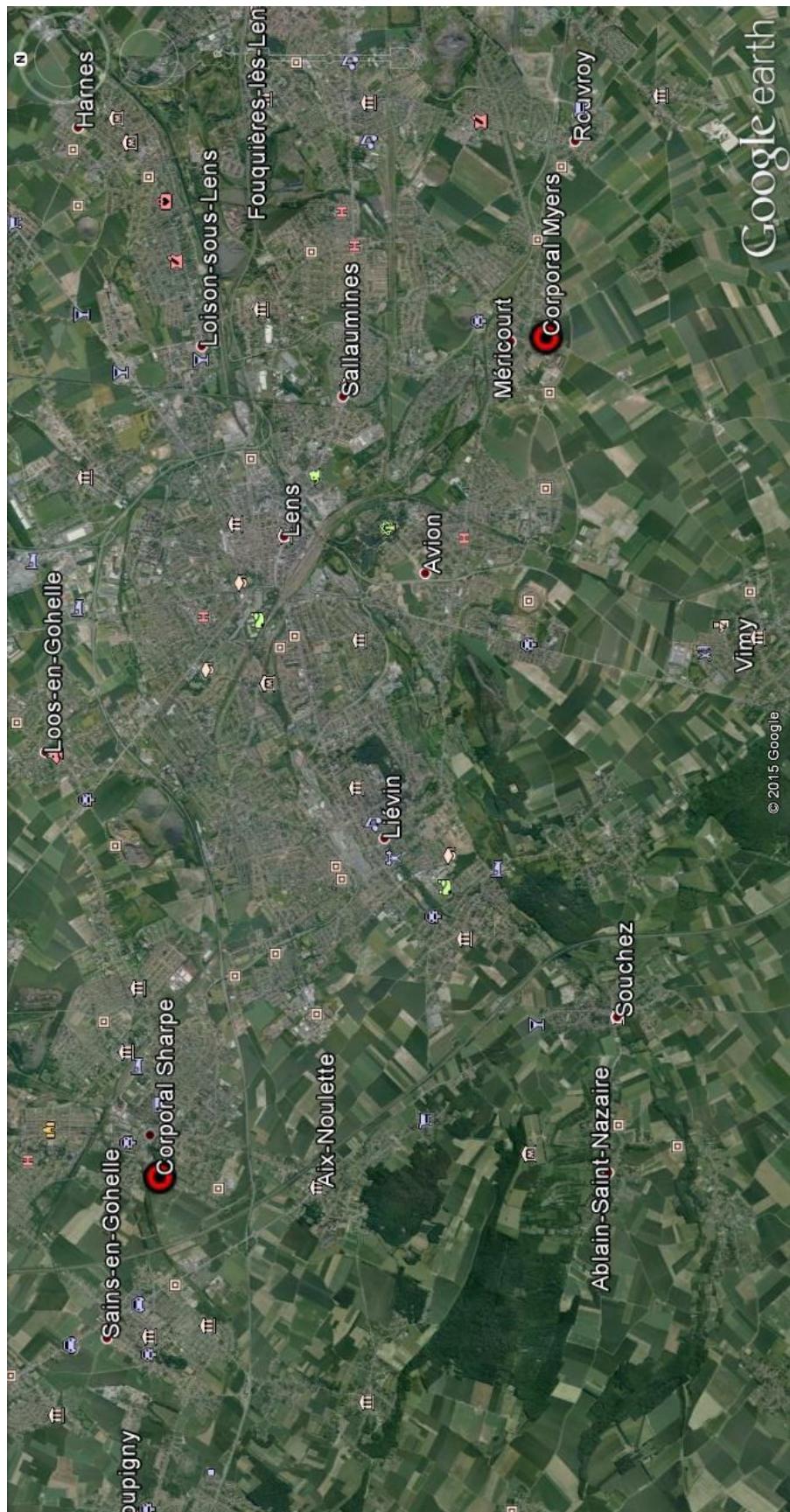
The party under Lieut. BINGHAM dealt with one large dug-out, but were unable to enter it owing to having used P Bombs. It was destroyed by the sappers.

The party under Lieut. REYMES bombed 7 dug-outs, in most of which enemy were seen but refused to come out. This party also found 4 sniper's posts well built in the parapet, 6 dead Germans were also seen beside a destroyed machine gun which had apparently been hit by a shell. Lieut. REYMES secured identification by taking the shoulder straps from the bodies of 4 Germans. They were all of the 11th Regiment.

ATTACHMENT #4

WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.				
(Exact heading not required.)				
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
FRONT 18-2- RECEIVED-17. RECEIVED-17. LINE. 19/2/	10pm. 17.	and repairing trenches which are now in a very muddy condition owing to the thaw.	5	Remarks and references to Appendixes <i>H.D.</i>
<p>FRONT 18-2-17. Night was exceptionally quiet. At 9.30 a.m. the 12th Brigade put on a show to the right of the 47th Battalion, and in retaliation the Hun sent a great number of rumjars, minewavers, and shrapnel shells over and in vicinity of KING'S CROSS, causing us the following casualties. No. 472778. Pte. Victor Tallas. Killed. No. 423323. Pte. E. Gard. Killed.</p> <p>No. 472513. " 472513. Pte. Evans. I. wound left forearm, end right hand.</p> <p>After this the situation became normal and very quiet until 5.30 p.m. when a raiding party of 93. Other ranks under Lieut. Gilpin, Lt. Reymes, and Lt. Bingham, raided the enemy's trench <i>Our Farm</i>. supporting barrage was excellent, and raid tho' not resulting in any prisoners was very effective in doing considerable damage to Huns, trenches, and dugouts. Report on raid. (App. No. VIII).</p> <p>Our casualties were:</p> <p>472122. Cpl. Chinnery. G.I. wounded l. leg. slight. 781706. Cpl. Myers. A.E. missed n.e.</p> <p>888462. Pte. Kennedy. A.O. wounded, shrapnel in leg.l. 888462. Pte. Kennedy. A.O. wounded, shrapnel in leg.l.</p> <p>887716. " Donaldson. J.E. " 887917. " Forster. D. " face.</p> <p>887462. " Kemp. P.P. " 199112. " Sargent. G. " l. forearm,</p> <p>472249. L/Cpl. McConaghie. G.S. w.l. hand. 474209. M/Cpl. Righton. W.W. missing.</p> <p>472412. Pte. Atkinson. A.S. wounded l. hand. 427740. Cpl. H. Miles. W. shoulder.</p> <p>426687. " Emery. H.E. " 437848. Pte. Robb. D. shpl. w. back.</p> <p>472066. " Gower. concussion.</p> <p>The following have been recommended for decorations for their brave conduct and devotion to duty in this raid. Lieut. H. Reymes, Military Cross. Lieutenant C.R. Gilpin, Military Cross. <i>H.D.</i></p> <p>472610. Sgt. C.D.D. Williamson. M. " Medal. 474321. Pte. P. LeJour, and</p> <p>472856. Pte. J. Gower. " <i>H.D.</i></p> <p>20-2-17. Situation during night very quiet after the raid. Situation during the day also very quiet. The Battalion have been employed all day cleaning out and making trenches tenable. The weather is still dull and trenches very muddy.</p> <p>About 10 p.m. the Hun artillery fired five shots on his front line which would appear as though he was registering on his own front line.</p> <p>The night was passed in comparative quietness. Working parties were employed during night in cleaning out and repairing trenches, also carrying trenches. The day has been passed</p>				

ATTACHMENT #5



ATTACHMENT #6



ATTACHMENT #7

surname	forename	initials	death	unit	buried	number	cemetery	grave
BARTLETT	EDWIN	E L	23/02/1917	10th Bn.	France	'434094'	FOSSE NO.10 COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, SAINS-EN-GOHELLE	I. B. 34.
DENOAN	FRANCIS	F H	9/2/1917	60th Bn.	France	'458589'	ECOIVRES MILITARY CEMETERY, MONT-ST. ELOI	IV. C. 28.
EDWARDS	LESLIE	L L C	16/02/1917	74th Bn.	Canada	'135133'	TORONTO (PROSPECT) CEMETERY	Sec. 17. 4033.
GALLAGHER		F J	23/02/1917	10th Bn.	France	'430329'	FOSSE NO.10 COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, SAINS-EN-GOHELLE	I. B. 35.
HAMILTON		A	7/2/1917	47th Bn.	France	'629462'	BARLIN COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION	I. F. 32.
MEYERS	ALFRED	A C	19/02/1917	46th Bn.	France	'781706'	VIMY MEMORIAL	
MCKAY		W K	5/2/1917	43rd Bn.	United Kingdom	'153109'	CLIVE (ALL SAINTS) CHURCHYARD	
MCLELLAN	WILLIAM	W H	16/02/1917	102nd Bn.	France	'703380'	VILLERS STATION CEMETERY, VILLERS-AU-BOIS	VII. B. 7.
RENDLE		H J	27/02/1917	26th Bn.	France	'69816'	ECOIVRES MILITARY CEMETERY, MONT-ST. ELOI	IV. D. 29.
RIGGS		W G	24/02/1917	26th Bn.	France	'69824'	AUBIGNY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION	I. G. 29.
SHARPE		R P	24/02/1917	10th Bn.	France	'A/26212'	VIMY MEMORIAL	
STEWART		R	7/2/1917	16th Bn.	United Kingdom	'29291'	KILLIN OLD CHURCHYARD	Near East end.
TERRY	ALBERT	A E	10/2/1917	7th Bn.	United Kingdom	'77431'	BIRMINGHAM (BRANDWOOD END) CEMETERY	B. 2. "C." T/44.
WILSON	WILLIAM	W L M	26/02/1917	44th Bn.	France	'460426'	BOULOGNE EASTERN CEMETERY	VIII. B. 172.

ATTACHMENT #8

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).							
ALL CROSSES ERECTED AND CHECKED.							
<u>BURIAL RETURN.</u>							
CABARET ROUGE.B.C. Sheet. 44a.S.13.a.5.3.							
Name of Cemetery of Reburial				Means of Identification			
Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
7	B	1	Row "A"	Yes.G.R.U.	641717/0 McLEAN Hugh J. 50, CAN. 13. x. 17.	Gross, Clothing & Old Report. (Address: Greenfields, Ontario, Canada.)	<i>Effects</i> No.
7	B	2	"	"	U.CANADIAN.S.	Cross,Clothing*	"
7	B	3	"	"	U.CANADIAN.Cpl.	Cross,Clothing & Old Report.	"
7	B	4	"	"	U.CANADIAN.S.	Cross,Clothing*	"
7	B	5	"	"	U.CANADIAN.S.	"	"
7	B	6	"	"	U.CANADIAN.S.	"	"
7	B	7	"	"	U.CANADIAN.S.	"	"
7	B	8	"	"	U.CANADIAN.S.	"	"
7	B	9	"	"	U.CANADIAN.S.	"	"
7	B	10	"	"	U.CANADIAN.S.	"	"
							<i>Effects</i> Asst. Registration Officer, Nos. 2 & 3 Areas, I.W.G.C. Armentieres.
							<i>Effects</i> Entered No 352 Slips Checked No 22

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

ATTACHMENT #9

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author